THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) It is not in the public interest to disclose information on the quantum of uranium produced in the country.

(b) and (c) No case of any increase in the incidence of ailments like cancer etc. for reasons attributable to uranium mining have come to notice. The Health Physics Unit of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre monitors the environment, the flora and fauna and the human population in the vicinity of the uranium mines for radiation levels and effects, if any, on them.

(c) No, Sir.

राष्ट्रीय सिंचाई नीति

*231. श्री गोपाल सिंह जी सोलंकी: क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने एक नई राष्ट्रीय सिंचाई नीति का मसौदा तैयार किया है जिसके अन्तर्गत सूखा- प्रवण क्षेत्रों में सिचांई सुविधा की आधुनिक तकनीक उपलब्ध करायी जाएगी;

(ख) क्या सरकार ने इस प्रयोजन हेतु योजना आयोग से अतिरिक्त वित्तीय प्रावधान करने का अनुरोध किया है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है; और

(घ) किन-किन राज्यों को विशेष प्राथमिकता दी जाएगी?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सोमपाल): (क) परियोजनाओं के कमान क्षेत्रों में समुचित सिंचाई जल प्रबंधन को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए राष्ट्रीय जल नीति (1987) से भिन्न सिंचाई प्रबंधन के लिए एक राष्ट्रीय नीति अपनाने के वास्ते कार्रवाई आरम्भ कर दी गई है। उपरोक्त नीतिगत दस्तावेज को राष्ट्रीय जल बोर्ड द्वारा अन्तिम रूप दिया गया है। इसमें अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ यह व्यवस्थाहै कि मृदा नमी संरक्षण उपायों, ड्रिप सिंचाई, जल जमा करने की पद्वतियों तथा वाष्पीकरण हानियों को कम करने आदि तथा जल को कम खपत वाली फसलों को अपनाने आदि जैसे उपाय किये जाने चाहिए ताकि सूखा प्रवण क्षेत्रों पर सूखे से संबधित समस्याओं का अपेक्षाकृत कम प्रभाव पड़े। उक्त नीति के संबंध में अनुवर्ती कार्रवाई राष्ट्रीय जल संसाधन परिषद् द्वारा इसे अपनाये जाने पर निर्भर करती है।

(ख) से (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठते।

Per Capita Availability of Kerosene in Rajasthan

*232. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita availability of kerosene in Rajasthan at present and its consumption with the national average; and

(b) the steps, so far, taken by Government to increase the allocation of kerosene to Rajasthan so as to increase the per capita availability in the State?

THE MINISTER OF PERTOLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY): (a) The per capita availability of kerosene in Rajasthan during 1997-98 was 8.22 kg./anrium which was below the national average of 11.41 kg./annum.

(b) Allocation of kerosene is made on historical basis, i.e., past year's supplies plus additional allocation out of increase given at national level, kerosene is a deficit product and more than 40% of our requirements are met through imports. Requests are received from State Governments for additional allocation of kerosene from time to time. However, on account of constraints of product availability, foreign exchange and heavy subsidy involved, it is not possible to meet fully such demands always, possible increase, however, is given, out of the additional availability at the country level, in accordance with a formula, under which higher allocation, out of additional quantity, is given to states with lower per capita availability, so as to reduce inter-State disparity over a period of time. To take care of more deficit States, a very high increase has been given in the allocation of kerosene in 1998-99 to the States like Rajasthan

having per capita availability of kerosene much lower than the national average. Accordingly, a high increase of 21.65% has been made in the allocation of kerosene to Rajasthan for the year 1998-99, compared to the 8.58% increase at the country level. This increase amounts to an additional quantity of 78324 MTs. The per capita availability of kerosene in the State has now increased to 10 kg./ annum in 1998-99 from 8.22 kg.'/annum in 1997-98.

Impact of Nuclear Tests on Foreign Policy

*233. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:
SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any long or short term impact of May 1998 Nuclear Tests on our foreign policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) and (b) India's foreign policy which has enjoyed national consensus, reflects a high degree of continuity. For the last 50 years the primary objective of India's foreign policy has been to pursue self-reliance and maintain independence of thought and action. In keeping with this basic tenet successive governments have taken necessary steps to safeguard India's nuclear option. The recent tests are a logical continuation of the earlier decisions. Despite any apprehensions that may be expressed regarding the short term, in. the long term Government's policies will ensure India taking its rightful place in the community of nations.

Canada's Nuclear Aid to India

*234. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMA-CHANDRA REDDY: SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Canada propose to assist India in the field of Nuclear Energy;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been reached in this regard;

(c) the time by which Canada is likely to resume neclear aid to India;

(d) whether areas for nuclear cooperation between the two countries have been identified; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) There is no proposal from the Canadian Government to assist India in the field of nuclear energy.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Task Force to Evolve National I.T. Policy

235. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Task Force has been created with a view to* evolve a National Information Technology policy;

(b) if so, the names of the Members of. the Committee, its terms of reference and other details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that one of the Members of the said Committee was associated actively with M/s ARM, Hyderabad, which has been chargesheeted by the CBI; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the draft policy on I.T. presented to Government by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh will be the basis of the aforesaid exercise?